

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 10, 2004**

**560 J Street, Suite 395  
Sacramento, California**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Gay Timmons  
Fred Rappleye  
Joseph Hall  
Lauree Bradley  
Rick Melnicoe  
Deanna Marquart  
Diane Cooner  
Pat Kennelly  
James Rickert, Alternate  
Myron Cooper, Alternate  
Stacy Carlsen, Ag Commissioner  
Sean Swezey  
Sharon Lanini  
Kim Dietz  
Timothy O'Keefe  
Hunter Nadler  
Bill Reichle  
Richard Krengel

**CDFA REPRESENTATIVES**

Steve Mauch  
Ray Green  
Sandy Cowling-Rose

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Jake Lewin, CCOF  
Sue TenEyck, Taurus Consulting

**ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS**

Gay Timmons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2003 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 3: CHAIR REPORT – GAY TIMMONS**

Gay offered to provide a two page COPAC report to be sent out with the renewals. Gay will pilot the report to be sent out.

#### **ITEM 4: CDFA REPORT**

Ray Green provided two documents:

- a. Organic Revenue – Comparison of Revenue From July Thru January
- b. Number of New County Renewal and Dropped Registrants For the Last Half of 2003

Ray announced that we are now a State Organic Program (SOP) and are able to take legal enforcement action. Ray will have a letter mailed out to all Registrants announcing the details of the SOP in about two to three weeks.

Ray discussed his plans to provide training to the County Inspectors and Certifiers in how to identify and avoid “underground regulations”. Ray also stated the need for all Certifiers to be using the same criteria for certifying. Ray is in the process of setting up the training classes.

The draft for the new Registration Form is completed and is currently in the Departmental approval process. Once the form is approved, it will be given a new form number and sent to the Printer.

The new Spot Inspection Form is a fifty-one-question sheet for the Inspector to use as a guidance tool. This form is in the test trial basis.

Ray reported on Cost Share Applications. We have approved and sent to Finance \$354,000.00. There are approximately 157 applications still pending.

#### **ITEM 5: DHS REPORT – PATRICK KENNELLY**

Patrick provided the annual Organic Processed Product Registration Program Report. He stated there are 785 Processed Products Registrants for 2003. There were no significant adverse actions to report.

Stacy Carlsen asked a question regarding revenues and expenses. Patrick will bring a report to address these issues and questions to the next committee meeting.

#### **ITEM 6: MEMBERS REPORT**

James Rickert explained that the demand for organic beef has increased dramatically. He discussed rotation of grazing for the herd on organic pastures, animal health practices, and general care.

### **ITEM 7: COUNTY REPORT – STACY CARLSEN**

Stacy reported that Marin County's Certification Program was presented as a model at the Yolo County Organic Growers' Meeting.

### **ITEM 8: NOSB UPDATE – KIM DIETZ**

Kim provided attachments that included:

- a. Next NOSB meeting: April 28-30, 2004.
- b. New NOSB Executive Committee Officers and Committees.
- c. New material review evaluation criteria for NOSB.
- d. Current petitioned materials.
- e. Updated National List. Includes material recommendations up to May 2003.
- f. Request for comment on "Compatibility with Organic Production and Handling" until March 5, 2004. It was revised January 30, 2004, to include comments received.

Sean Swezey wanted the record to reflect that Kim Dietz has done a great job as the materials chair on the NOSB.

### **ITEM 9: GE WHITE PAPER**

Gay Timmons provided a six-page draft document regarding genetically modified organisms and the potential impact on the market availability on non-GE produced crops. After a group discussion it was decided that Gay Timmons and Diane Cooner would submit a revised draft to Ray Green. Ray will then give the document to Steve Mauch who will then forward it to the Secretary. Gay will email the revised draft to committee members.

**MOTION:** Kim Dietz moved to forward the revised draft. Rick Melnicoe seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed.

### **ITEM 10: CDFA FSMIP REPORT – JEFF CESCA**

Jeff Cesca was not available. Ray Green gave a brief update of the report to the committee. The grant request for FSMIP is in the mail.

### **ITEM 11: COPA COMMITTEE UPDATE – ENFORCEMENT**

Ray Green explained that enforcement might change now that the State is a SOP. He ask for a sub-committee to help with reviewing teaching modules and handouts. The sub-committee will consist of Gay Timmons, Kim Dietz, Karen Troxell, Stacy Carlsen, Fred Rappleye, James Rickert, Hunter Nadler, and Joe Hall.

**ITEM 12: ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** Sean Swezey nominated Gay Timmons for Committee Chair and Bill Reichle for Committee Vice Chair. The motions was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nomination for the Committee Secretary was postponed until the next meeting.

**ITEM 13: NEW BUSINESS**

Jake Lewin with CCOF brought to the committee an issue from their members. They are concerned that some farms are claiming they are organic; however, they are not being certified and clearly have more than \$5,000 in annual gross income.

Ray Green asked Jake Lewin to file a compliant with CDFA and it would be forwarded to the proper county for inspection.

**ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Ray Green, Supervisor  
Organic Program  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services